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HOUSE RESOLUTION 124
By Fowlkes

A RESOLUTION To honor and congratulate Parmenas Cox, "The Gentleman Banker" on the celebration of his 90th birthday.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Parmenas Cox will celebrate his 90th birthday on May 29, 2001, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, The son of Margaret Elizabeth Lyman and James Thaddeus Cox, Parmenas Cox was born on May 29, 1911 in Knoxville, but the Cox family actually lived in the small community of Fountain City; and

WHEREAS, Mr. James T. Cox was a graduate of the University of Tennessee School of Law and played football for the Volunteers during the 1901 and 1902 seasons; his son would become a ardent, lifelong fan of the Vols; and

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WHEREAS, Mr. Cox was the second of four children; his sister, Emmy Lou Cox Dowdy is now 87 and lives in Lebanon and his sister Margaret Cox Bibb is now 84 and lives in Clarksville; his older brother, Lyman Cox is deceased; and

WHEREAS, From a very early age, Mr. Cox regularly visited his grandfather, Parmenas Cox, for whom he was named, at his grandparents' farm on Sugar Creek in Minor Hill, Tennessee and spent his summers there; the young Parmenas soon fell in love with the Sugar Creek farm in particular and Giles County, the land of milk and honey, in general; and

WHEREAS, Today, the family farm remains a working Angus cattle farm that is owned in partnership by Mr. Cox's son and grandsons; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox became a permanent resident of Giles County in 1924; in 1929, he graduated from Pulaski Central High School, where he lettered in basketball and football; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox attended the University of Tennessee and was one of the first co-op students (1929-1933) from DuPont in Old Hickory to attend the University; and

WHEREAS, On May 7, 1935, Parmenas Cox was joined in marriage with Lounette Jackson; after taking a luxurious one-night honeymoon, Mr. Cox returned to work on the farm the next day; the couple's happy union eventually produced three children; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox provided for his family by the sweat of his brow as a farmer for several years before entering the banking profession; and

WHEREAS, On the fateful day of January 12, 1938, Mr. Cox began his illustrious career in banking as an employee and Board Director of the state-chartered Richland Bank, which would become the First National Bank of Pulaski in 1949; and

WHEREAS, Beginning his career at the astounding salary of \$100 monthly, Mr. Cox served in every position with the First National Bank of Pulaski, from teller and cashier to Senior Chairman of the Board, before taking a much deserved retirement in October 1997; however, he still serves as a lifetime Board Director of the Bank; and

WHEREAS, During his 63 years of meritorious service to the First National Bank of Pulaski, Mr. Cox has provided the foundation of trust necessary for the community to embrace

the bank, and he has diligently overseen the bank's tremendous growth into one of Tennessee's most successful financial institutions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox has touched the lives of many Giles Countians since that fateful day in 1938, and he has earned their love and universal respect through his uncompromising integrity, honesty, fairness and compassion for others; and

WHEREAS, Parmenas Cox is renowned in Giles County as "The Gentleman Banker" because of his positive attitude toward his work and his genuine appreciation of people; and

WHEREAS, The Gentleman Banker is indeed a remarkable man with a caring heart: on paydays, Mr. Cox would greet each customer personally with a handshake and a smile; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox holds himself to a strict standard of personal virtue, and he serves as a role model for the literally thousands of people who have been touched by his goodness and his gentle manner; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cox is renowned throughout Giles County as a sensitive and compassionate community leader; he has evidenced his impeccable character and his love of community through a creativity that is characteristic of visionary thought and action; and

WHEREAS, It has been eloquently said of Mr. Cox: "For all the employees of First National Bank, Mr. Cox is First National Bank, because he is a daily reminder for all of us what is good and positive about our community, our county and our country. He believes in earning what you make, coming to work every day and treating others as you want to be treated"; and

WHEREAS, In the realm of public service, Mr. Cox has tirelessly served his fellow citizens in numerous capacities: for thirty-five years he was active as a Board member of the Tennessee Children's Home and served three consecutive years as the President of the Board; he was a Founder of the Pulaski Electric System and served on its Board for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, In the political arena, Mr. Cox served astutely as an Alderman for the City of Pulaski for 20 years; during this exceptional tenure, he served as Vice Mayor for 15 of those years; and

WHEREAS, As Mr. Cox approaches his 10th decade, he is still an active and productive member of society; he is affiliated with the American Red Cross, the Boy Scouts, the American Heart Association, and the Chamber of Commerce, which he previously served as President; and

WHEREAS, A gentleman of devout religious faith and spirituality, Mr. Cox is a faithful member of East Hills Church of Christ, where he has served his fellow Christians as Elder and Sunday School Superintendent and by teaching adult Sunday School classes; and

WHEREAS, A devoted family man, Mr. Cox is the patriarch of a large and growing lineage; he is the loving father of Betty Cox Morrison and her husband, Matthew; Jimmy Cox, who has followed in his father's footsteps to serve with distinction as Chief Executive Officer of First National Bank, and his wife, Donna; and Lydia Cox Fish and her husband, Roger; he is the proud grandfather of 4 grandchildren: Matt Morrison and his wife, Jan; The Honorable J.B. Cox, Chancellor for the 17th Judicial District, and his wife, Nancy; Lyman Cox and his wife, Kim; and Suzanne Fish Thigpen and her husband, Tate; and 4 great-grandchildren: John and Cole Morrison; Ben Cox; and Savannah Cox; and

WHEREAS, His loving wife, Lounette, has passed from this world to claim her great reward in Heaven; and

WHEREAS, On May 29, 2001, the First National Bank of Pulaski and the Chamber of Commerce will host a 90th birthday fete to honor Parmenas Cox; and

WHEREAS, We wish to grasp this golden opportunity to join in this celebration by specially recognizing one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we honor and congratulate Parmenas Cox, "The Gentleman Banker" on the celebration of his 90th birthday and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we applaud Mr. Cox for his courage and conviction as a citizen and thank him for his many years of stellar service to his fellow human beings as a humanitarian and civic leader.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.